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Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CAIRO 10254 150949Z

10
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
---------- 109494
O 150910Z OCT 75
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 7177
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T CAIRO 10254

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, XF, LE
SUBJECT: PAN-ARAB FORCES IN LEBANON

REF: JIDDA 6892

1. WE BELIEVE IT LIKELY THAT AT LEAST ONE DELEGATION OF OCTOBER 15 ARAB LEAGUE FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING ON LEBANON WILL SUGGEST DISPATCH OF SOME KIND OF MILITARY OBSERVER FORCE TO SECURE LEBANESE CEASEFIRE.IF UK EMBOFF IN JIDDA (REFTEL) IS CORRECT IN STATING DEPARTMENT HAS INFORMATION HAT "ISRAELI GOVERNMENT DEFINITELY WOULD NOT RPT NOT TOLERATE THE DISPATCH TO LEBANON OF AN INTER-ARAB FORCE," THEN WE BELIEVE EGYPTIANS SHOULD ALSO BE TOLD OF THIS FORTHWITH. FURTHERMORE, WE SHOULD KNOW, IF WE ARE TO TALK WITH FAHMY ABOUT THIS ISSUE, WHAT KIND OF INTER-ARAB FORCE MIGHT BE "TOLERABLE". WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO KNOW WHAT EVIDENCE THERE IS OF WHAT ISRAELI INTOLERANCE WOULD MEAN IN TERMS OF POLITICAL OR POSSIBLE MILITARY REACTION.

2. WE WISH TO STRESS OUR VIEW THAT IT WOULD BE BETTER TO TRY TO CURB ANY ARAB LEAGUE ACTION BEFORE, RATHER THAN AFTER, A FORMAL INITIATIVE IS TAKEN AT TOMORROW'S MEETING. LEBANESE GOVERNMENT ABOVE ALL WOULD SURELY WISH TO KNOW WHAT ISRAELI TOLERANCE LEVEL
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MIGHT BE. WE REALIZE GOL HAS NEVER BEEN KEEN ON NOTION OF

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FOREIGN ARAB TROOPS WITHIN BOUNDARIES OF LEBANON, BUT IN CURRENT
ABYSMAL SITUATION THERE, WE ASSUME THAT SOME FUNDAMENTAL
RETHINKING MIGHT BE UNDERWAY. MILITARY OBSERVERS MIGHT BE SOMETHING
WHICH TAQLA MIGHT AT LEAST BE WILLING TO DISCUSS WITH ARAB LEAGUE.
IF SUCH A PAN-ARAB OBSERVER TEAM IS INTOLERABLE TO GOI, WE
STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT THIS INFORMATION BE PASSED TO GOL AND
GOE AS WELL AS OTHER MODERATELY-MINDED ARAB GOVERNMENTS WITHOUT
DELAY.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LIMITATIONS OF HOSTILITIES, INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPING FORCES, CIVIL DISORDERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975CAIRO10254
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750357-0235
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751052/aaaabumc.tel
Line Count: 70
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 75 JIDDA 6892
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 JUN 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <13 NOV 2003 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PAN-ARAB FORCES IN LEBANON
TAGS: PFOR, XF, LE, (SADAT, ANWAR)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006